

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Mueller, et al. Examiner: Unknown
Serial No: 10/019,805 Art Unit: Unknown
For: NEAR-FIELD OPTICAL EXAMINATION DEVICE
Filed: 21 December 2001 Date: 03 April 2002

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Under 37 CFR 1.97

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed with the missing parts in the national stage entry of a PCT application, so it is timely filed without payment of a fee. 37 CFR §1.97(b).

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 CFR §1.56(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13, at 25.

This Information Disclosure Statement is made to comply with the duty of candor imposed on all individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of this application, as defined by 37 CFR §1.56(c).


Nineteen (19) U.S. patents, twelve (12) foreign patent documents and one (1)

non-patent reference are listed on the attached two (2) sheets of Form PTO/SB/08A and one (1) sheet of Form PTO/SB/08B which are made a part hereof. A copy of each is enclosed. Also enclosed in the filing papers, but not listed on the form, is a copy of an International Preliminary Search Report from the European Patent Office on PCT application PCT/EP00/06088, from which this US application is a national stage entry.

Reference BI has an English language equivalent provided in Reference AS. Reference BA is in German, but has an English language abstract.

The foregoing Information Disclosure Statement is based upon the information known to the inventor or contained in the undersigned attorney's file as of the filing date of this statement and is inclusive of the best information known to each of the undersigned at that date. Prompt consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement and the references by the Examiner is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1

of

2

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/019 805
Filing Date	12/21/2001
First Named Inventor	Dr. Juergen Helfman
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	7040-52

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)				
	AA	US-4041146		08/09/1977	Giaever	
	AB	US-5105305		04/14/1992	Betzig	
	AC	US-5286970		02/15/1994	Betzig	
	AD	US-5289004		02/22/1994	Okada	
	AE	US-5304795		04/19/1994	Fujihira	
	AF	US-5354985		10/11/1994	Quate	
	AG	US-5362963		11/08/1994	Kopelman	
	AH	US-5546223		08/13/1996	Lewis	
	AI	US-5548113		08/20/1996	Goldberg	
	AJ	US-5633972		05/27/1997	Walt	
	AK	US-5641896		06/24/1997	Karrai	
	AL	US-5675433		10/07/1997	Lewis	
	AM	US-5770855		06/23/1998	Fischer	
	AN	US-5770856		06/23/1998	Fillard	
	AO	US-5770955		06/23/1998	Reynolds	
	AP	US-5789742		08/04/1998	Wolff	
	AQ	US-5666197		09/09/1997	Guerra	
	AR	US-5821409		10/13/1998	Honma	
	AS	US-5838000		11/17/1998	Mertesdorf	
	US-					

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³	-Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	BA	WO	97/25644	07/17/1997	Mueller		
	BB	EP	0 112 401 A1	07/04/1984	Pohl		
	BC	EP	0 726 480 A2	08/14/1996	Heckl		
	BD	DE	41 06 548 A1	09/03/1992	Fischer		
	BE	DE	195 04 662 A1	08/14/1996	Heckl		
	BF	DE	195 31 465 A1	10/02/1996	Weihnacht		
	BG	DE	195 31 802 A1	06/06/1997	Guttruff		
	BH	DE	196 01 109 A1	07/17/1997	Mueller		
	BI	DE	196 31/498 A1	02/05/1998	Mertesdorf		
	BJ	DE	197 14 346 A1	10/01/1998	Lienau		

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Application Number	10/019.805
				Filing Date	12/21/2001
				First Named Inventor	Dr. Juergen Helfman
				Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	7040-52

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/019.805
				Filing Date	12/21/2001
				First Named Inventor	Dr. Juergen Helfman
				Group Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
				Attorney Docket Number	7040-52
Sheet	1	of	1		

[illegible]

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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